



ROSEVILLE LEGEND

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Fancy Field Jug Attributed to Dick Brown-Potter

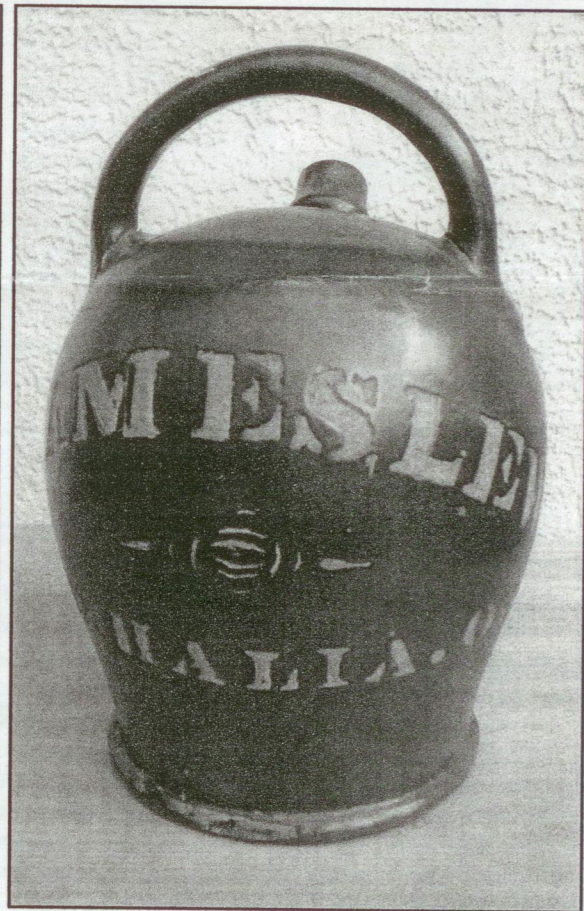
By James L. Murphy

A distinctive, Albany-slip stoneware field jug with a capacity of slightly under six cups and elaborately incised decoration identifying the owner as **Mr. James Lewis**, Moxahala, Ohio, unquestionably was made in or near Roseville, for the base is inscribed in script, "*Dick Brown, Roseville, O.*"

James Lewis is almost certainly a farmer who lived near Moxahala in 1880, with wife **Catherine** and their eight children. He was still living in 1900, as was **Catherine**, but not much else is known regarding him. He or his son, **Thomas H. Lewis**, may have been involved with the development of Moxahala, as the family later owned land once owned by the Moxahala Land Company on the northwest edge of town.

As for **Dick Brown**, the 1880 census lists **Richard Brown**, potter, in Harrison Township, Perry County, aged 35 years. Also listed are his wife, **R.R. Brown**, age 32 years, and their four children, **Lucy**, **Mary R.**, **Albert**, and **Harry Brown**, ages 12, 10, 8, and 2 years. The **Richard Brown** family is listed next to that of **Moses Tedrow**, also a potter, whose pottery is shown on the 1875 Perry County atlas, along **Wigton Run**, about one mile southwest of Roseville, and it is possible that **Dick Brown** worked for Tedrow, but it seems more likely that he worked for his father, **James J. Brown**, who is listed as a master potter as early as the 1850 census. **J. J. Brown** is listed in the 1880 manufacturer's schedule for Roseville, employing two men, with a property value of \$400. All three

(Continued on Page 5)

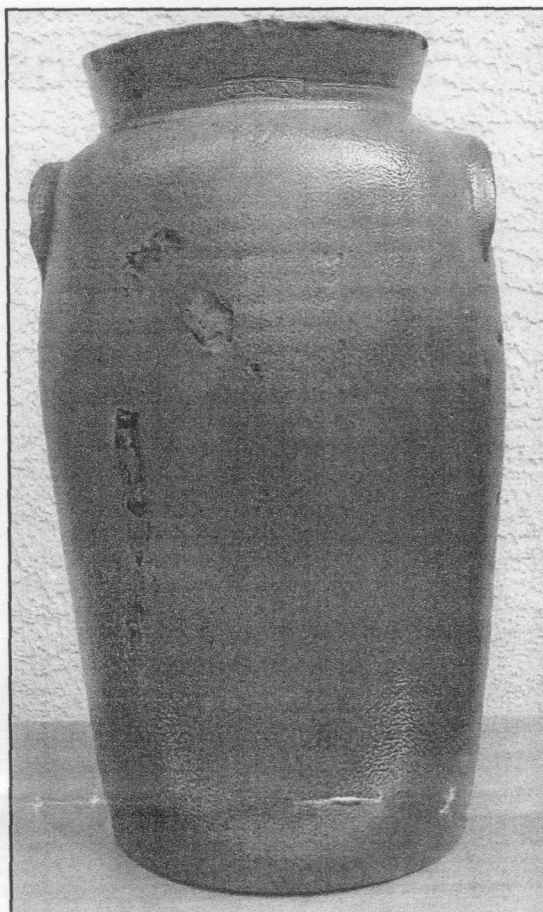


Above, the brown fancy field stoneware jug stands 8" tall. It reads "Mr. James Lewis, Moxahala, O." [Photo provided by James L. Murphy.]

Dick Brown (Continued from Page 1)

of his sons, **Richard**, **Benjamin**, and **William H.**, were also potters.

A four gallon stoneware churn impressed "**R. Brown**" may also have been made at Roseville, though not necessarily by **Richard Brown**, for there is an **R. F. Brown** listed in the 1901 state factory inspector's report, employing 14 hands (3 males, 11 females) and an **R. P. Brown & Company** listed in the 1896 Roseville directory, as well as a **Robert Brown** listed in the 1880 census for Clay Township, aged 26 years, potter, with wife **Louiza** and a **William Brown**, aged 18 years, "works in pottery," presumably a brother of **Robert**. The 1900 census lists **R. F. Brown**, with wife **Hattie** and children **Paul** and **Daisy**. Aged 30 years, this potter is clearly not "our" **Richard Brown**, who would have been about 55 years old, but the 1910 census documents state that he was "a" **Richard F. Brown**, now a stoneware salesman. It seems likely that "**R. P. Brown**" is a typo for **R. F. Brown**, but only more information will resolve the question of how many "R." Browns we are dealing with, and we may never know which one made this marked churn.



Share Your Family History

We are always looking for stories to share with our members about the founding families of Roseville. Please consider sharing your family's history with the historical society. Even if you are not fond of writing things down, please contact one of our historical society members and they will write your family history or "Roseville Story" down for you.

If you have any photographs, postcards, company letterhead, etc. that depict life in Roseville in earlier days, please consider sharing them with the historical society. Please contact historical society President, Joan Spring at (740) 697-7984.



Photo above, the four gallon stoneware churn measures 16 1/2" tall. Photo below, the four gallon churn is marked "R. Brown." [Photos provided by James L. Murphy.]